

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 HA-05 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 774
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM PINS PE AR
SUBJ: FOCEP CANDIDATE ALLEGES MISTREATMENT DURING MAY 25
DEPORTATION

RSK: LIMA 4591

1. FOCEP CANDIDATE GENARO LEDESMA IZQUIETA, IN A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW FROM PARIS PUBLISHED IN JUNE 28 "X", MAKES SOME SERIOUS CHARGES AGAINST THE GOP AND ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES FOR THE "ATTROCIOUS AND ABUSIVE" TREATMENT HE ALLEGES THAT HE AND OTHER LEFTIST POLITICIANS AND JOURNALISTS RECEIVED IN RELATION TO THEIR DEPORTATION TO ARGENTINA ON MAY 25 (REFTEL).

2. LEDESMA SAYS THAT DEPORTEES WERE KEPT INCOMMUNICADO FOR SEVERAL DAYS. WHEN THEY LEARNED, AT THE AIRPORT EARLY ON THE 25TH, THAT THEY WERE TO BE SENT TO ARGENTINA (WHERE IN LEDESMA'S WORDS "LEFTIST LEADERS ARE KIDNAPPED AND MURDERED WITH IMPUNITY") THEY REFUSED TO BOARD THE PLANE, DELAYING ITS PLANNED DEPARTURE FOR THREE HOURS. FINALLY THEY WERE "DRAGGED, PUSHED AND KICKED", ABOARD BY ABOUT 20 PIP OFFICERS.

3. LEDESMA SAID THAT THE PERUVIAN POLICE WERE "TENDER" IN
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COMPARISON WITH ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES, WHO TOLD THEM THAT THEY WERE TO CONSIDER THEMSELVES PRISONERS OF WAR. IN JUJUY HE ALLEGES THEY WERE KEPT INCOMMUNICADO AND UNDER STRICT VIGILANCE BEFORE BEING TRANSFERRED TO BUENOS AIRES, WHERE THEY WERE KEPT IN "HORRIBLE" CELLS STAINED BY THE "BLOOD OF ASSASINATED OR TORTURED PRISONERS". LATER THE LIGHTS WERE COMPLETELY TURNED OFF AND THE

PRISONERS WERE FED ONLY ONCE A DAY. LEDESMA ADDED, "IT CANNOT BE POSSIBLE THAT PERUVIAN CITIZENS ARE TURNED OVER (BY THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT) TO A FOREIGN ARMY TO BE TREATED SO BADLY ... THIS VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS MUST BE DENOUNCED BEFORE THE WORLD."

4. COMMENT: LEDESMA HAD A REPUTATION FOR HONESTY AND FAITHFUL DEDICATION TO PRINCIPLE, BUT IT MAY BE THAT HIS "X" ACCOUNT HAS BEEN EMBROIDERED UPON SOMEWHAT. EMBOFF SPOKE AT LENGTH WITH WIFE OF DEPORTEE ALFONSO BAELEA TUESTA, EDITOR OF CONSERVATIVE WEEKLY "EL TIEMPO" WHO HAD BEEN IN DIRECT AND INDIRECT COMMUNICATION WITH HER HUSBAND IN ARGENTINA. MRS. BAELEA MADE NO MENTION OF THE HARSH CIRCUMSTANCES REPORTED BY LEDESMA, BUT THEN PERHAPS THE RIGHTIST BAELEA MAY HAVE HAD FAVORED TREATMENT.

DECON 10-3-78. SHLAUDEMAM

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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